

The Examiner states that Ishikawa et al disclose a magnetic head with grooves or trenches (textured surface), and polishing the surface with a polishing tap (2012). The Examiner argues that it would have been obvious to use the magnetic head cleaning method disclosed by Miyoshi et al with a textured (groove) disk as taught by Ishikawa et al, since both processes involve cleaning a magnetic head and the cleaning/polishing would perform equally well on both. The Examiner argues that the choice of workpiece would be within the level of ordinary skill.

In response, applicants submit that Ishikawa et al do not disclose a magnetic head that has trenches substantially parallel to a sliding direction of a cleaning tape, or cleaning such a magnetic head.

Ishikawa et al disclose a method of polishing a magnetic recording medium with a polishing cloth 2012 and 2012'. Polishings with these cloths are illustrated in the 10th embodiment to the 15th embodiment.

In the 10th and 11th embodiments, at column 21, a non-magnetic substrate 2011 is polished.

In the 12th embodiment, at column 22, Ishikawa et al discloses polishing "a titanium alloy substrate 11 of 65 nm in diameter".

In the 13th embodiment, at column 22, Ishikawa et al discloses polishing a NiP-plated AlMg alloy substrate 11.

In the 14th and 15th embodiment, at column 23, Ishikawa et al also refer to a substrate 11.

At column 2, lines 22 to 25, Ishikawa et al state that in Figure 1, reference numeral "11" denotes a magnetic head. Applicants assume that the Examiner, therefore, considers the embodiments 12 to 15 as being a polishing of a magnetic head, since they polish substrate 11. Applicants submit, however, that the reference to substrate 11 in embodiments 12 to 15 is not a reference to a magnetic head, but is a reference to a substrate of a magnetic recording medium.

In particular, each of the embodiments 10-15 relates to Figure 14 of Ishikawa et al. Figure 14 of Ishikawa et al shows a non-magnetic substrate 2011 rotating in the direction of arrow A, and nowhere discloses a substrate 11. Applicants submit that the reference to substrate 11 in embodiments 12-15 is a typographical error, and that Ishikawa et al clearly intended to refer to substrate 2011 instead of substrate 11. Figure 14 does not show any magnetic head, but merely shows a substrate of a magnetic disk.

Accordingly, applicants submit that Ishikawa et al do not disclose a magnetic head with grooves or trenches, and do not disclose or suggest polishing such a magnetic head.

In view of the above, applicants submit that Miyoshi et al and Ishikawa et al do not disclose or suggest the subject matter of claims 1 to 11 and, accordingly, request withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/694,174

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

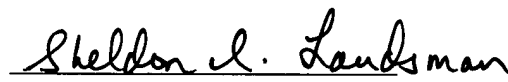
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER


Sheldon I. Landsman
Registration No. 25,430

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